

# Indiana Department of Education



## Division of Exceptional Learners

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### Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders June 12, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### Meeting Notes

Attendees: Gary Collings, Leah Nellis, Loui Lord Nelson, Susan Pieples, Cathy Pratt, Ann Schnepf, Kristen Schunk, Lilia Teninty, Greg Wilson, Sheila Wolfe

- 1) **Announcements:** Loui Lord Nelson will now act as the coordinator for the Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders. She provided the group with an update on COVOH.
- 2) **Children's Social, Emotional & Behavioral Plan:** Kristen provided an overview and update on the Plan via a PowerPoint. The plan does not focus on specific groups of children. Any specifics are in the appendices (e.g., suicide and prevention).
- 3) **Website Discussion:** The group concluded that the website should contain pages with the charter, the members, and the meetings notes. It will also be a location where individuals can link to any future survey(s). Kristen Schunk will work with the Task Force and the webmaster at the DOE to coordinate postings.
- 4) **IRCA Survey Discussion:** Cathy reviewed the Indiana Parent/Family 2006 Needs Assessment Survey from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. She explained that the subsequent survey data will be used to inform the legislative commission on Autism. She also reviewed the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Draft Roadmap and the Autism/ASD Guidelines for Service Providers which were developed by an expert work group in the Fall of 2005. Cathy spent time going over the Roadmap and the Task Force agreed that it is important that each person read the information and see how it applies to Indiana. Cathy suggested that we read to see what other states are facing and what is happening nationally.
- 5) **Task Force Survey Discussion:** The discussion opened with the question: What outcomes do we wish to see occur based on the information we collect from this survey? The group decided that the survey should ultimately be framed within the Task Force's four principles of policy, service, training, and collaboration. The three populations the task force primarily discussed were schools, parents and educators. Next steps: to gather information on what training is currently offered to these three groups via information gathering by individual task force members and utilizing current survey methods. Once the group is informed about what is going on across Indiana, the group can then design a survey that helps identify gaps in the four objective areas.